

# Niagara University, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center partner to provide career pathway program

Submitted by Niagara University

Niagara University has partnered with Niagara Memorial Medical Center to strategically elevate workforce opportunities through the establishment of paid work opportunities at the hospital.

"We have had a long-standing relationship with the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, and it is great to build on that legacy with this working agreement," said the Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., president of Niagara University. "Niagara Falls Memorial provides a critical resource in our community, and the opportunity to leverage the resources of the university, the currency of our curriculum, and our commitment to Niagara Falls, is central to this partnership. Niagara students benefit from real-world experi-

ences that enhance their overall education and, in doing so, they will potentially begin their careers at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center – and strengthen the workforce for the hospital and our community."

NU students have already begun working at the hospital this semester, with six nursing students currently working part time at NFMCC.

In addition to these nursing positions, the partnership will provide work opportunities for students from a number of fields of study, including accounting, human resources and marketing, to name just a few. These experiences allow students to gain work experiences, and establish a career pathway for them after graduation. Students in these roles will

have access to personal and professional development, career exploration, and important networking opportunities at NFMCC.

Each semester, more than a dozen students will be able to work at the hospital, gain real-world experience, and provide support in critical areas of need in the workforce at NFMCC.

"This program marks yet another important initiative in our long-standing relationship with Niagara University," said Joe Ruffolo, CEO of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. "It is a win-win for Memorial and, as importantly, for university student participants. As is the case at many medical centers, university interns play an invaluable role at Memorial, supplementing our staffing needs with bright young talent, and providing

a recruitment pipeline of potential candidates for employment post-graduation. Receiving a stipend gives students an incentive to select Memorial over other offers for their internship experience.

"We are indebted to Father Maher and his team for once again partnering with Memorial."

Maher said, "I would like to recognize Joe Ruffolo and his team for their leadership in our region. In partnership with Niagara's College of Nursing and the Holzschuh College of Business Administration, these innovative agreements extend our mutual commitment to the revitalization of Niagara Falls and the engagement of the community. These experiences for Niagara students are distinctive and provide a robust career pathway that accelerates academic

and career success – a hallmark of Niagara's academic programs and of our reciprocal cutting-edge partnerships with industry."

This partnership builds on the university's continuing commitment to build partnerships to advance the revitalization of Niagara Falls.

The agreement is funded in part by a grant Niagara University received from The John R. Oishei Foundation for its work in the Bridge District at the university's Academic Innovation Hub. The grant includes funding for workforce development and paid internship opportunities to help build a competitive workforce and entice innovation and entrepreneurship in the Niagara Falls region.

## Niagara County transfers cargo trailer to Niagara Active Hose Fire Co.

Niagara County Legislator Chris Robins on Friday announced the legislature approved a resolution transferring a 2010 Sure Trac cargo trailer previously used by the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services to the Town of Niagara Active Hose Fire Co. The resolution, sponsored by Robins and Legislator Mark

Grozio, passed unanimously.

Robins said the trailer is important in helping move heavy equipment, like generators, during emergency situations.

"I appreciate how our first responders and emergency personnel at the county and local levels collaborate so well together and look to maximize resources," Robins said. "In this instance,

our county Emergency Service Department updated equipment and was able to declare this cargo trailer as surplus at a time when Niagara Active Hose was in search of that very piece of equipment. Now that the legislature has approved the intermunicipal agreement, ownership of the trailer can be transferred.

Niagara Active Hose Chief Wil-

liam Jasper said he very much appreciates the transfer of the trailer – and other resources provided by the county, including a \$5,000 grant secured by Robins through the Community Partnership Program, which the fire company used to purchase a Rad-57 CO-

oximeter. "Our department responds to many calls where there is po-

tentially a carbon monoxide issue, so the RAD-57 allows us to quickly measure a person's CO and oxygen levels and then take appropriate action," Jasper said. "We very are grateful for the support we have received from Niagara County that has helped us acquire these important pieces of equipment."

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